

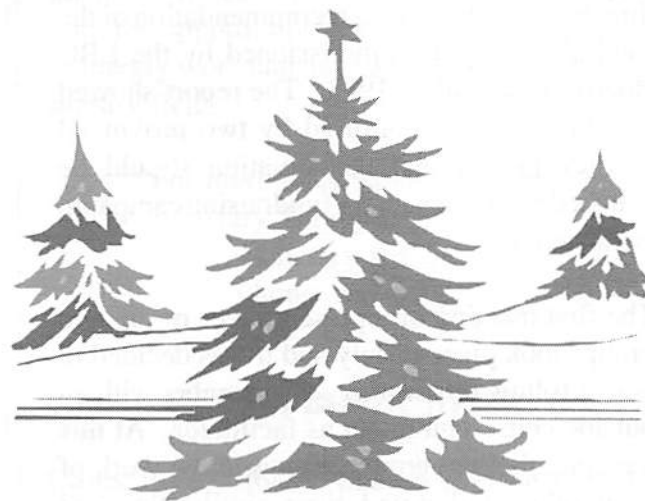


LITERACY B.C. NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1994

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 5

*LITERACY B.C.
WOULD LIKE TO
WISH YOU A HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON
AND HOPE THAT
THE NEW YEAR
BRINGS PEACE,
JOY AND HAPPINESS.*



This issue includes a copy of the Literacy B.C. 1993-94 Annual Report. We are proud of the growth and leadership our organization has developed. It would not have been possible without the generous support of donors, sponsors and members. A very special thank you to everyone for your support, encouragement and commitment.

LITERACY B.C. , ABEABC AND ALCC STEERING COMMITTEE AGREE THAT LBC AND ALCC SHOULD MERGE

The Board of the Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia (ABEABC) and the Steering Committee of the Adult Literacy Contact Centre (ALCC) have agreed to a merger of the ALCC and Literacy B.C. On October 22nd, the Literacy B.C. Board unanimously passed the following motion: **That we support and agree with the September agreement with ALCC and that we appoint people to a merger committee and that our delegates be guided by the Mission, Values and Beliefs Statements of Literacy B.C.** Both federal and provincial governments support this move.

A merger committee with representatives of both the ALCC Steering Committee and Literacy B.C. will begin to work out the details. Members will be kept informed of developments.

Background

In February of this year, the Literacy B.C. (LBC) Board directed its President to start conversations with the Steering Committee of the Adult Literacy Contact Centre (ALCC) about the roles and work of the two groups. This directive was based on a recommendation of the fundraising report commissioned by the LBC Board in the Fall of 1993. The report showed that the public is confused by two provincial literacy groups and the situation should be clarified before any major fundraising campaign is carried out.

The first meeting of representatives of the two groups took place in July and it was decided to hold a follow up meeting in September with an outside consultant to act as facilitator. At this meeting, the two groups reviewed the work of each other and noted their similarities and differences. The groups then **developed a common vision of what was required to serve the literacy field in the province.**

We agree that all the services provided came under 3 main areas:

ACCESS - (1-800 number; database services; research function; resource centre)

ADVOCACY - (public awareness/public relations; fundraising; support for learners)

DEVELOPMENT - (professional development, practitioner training; regional; learner network; democratic membership organization)

After discussing several organizational options, the representatives of the two groups **unanimously agreed that a merger of the two groups was the best option.** It makes good business sense to combine the services. The Board of the ABEABC agreed to the merger in late September and the LBC Board also agreed to the merger at its meeting on October 22, 1994.

Both groups are encouraged by the goodwill on both sides to reach an effective solution in order to provide the best possible services for literacy in British Columbia. We will keep members informed of developments.



NEWS FROM THE LITERACY B.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Annual General Meeting of Literacy B.C. was held on October 21, 1994. Over 50 people attended and enjoyed informative presentations by Jim Page, Director General, National Literacy Secretariat and Devron Gaber, Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour.

A presentation was made to Mary Waddington, to thank her for all of her hard work on behalf on literacy while she was the Provincial Literacy/ ABE Coordinator for the Ministry. In addition, a special thank you was given to the following Directors who retired from the Literacy B.C. Board:

Patricia Abe
Mardi Joyce
Hong Ngo
Vicky Hallett
Bill Lavorchick
Alan Smith
Pat Hodgson
Jim Lippert
Maureen Stephens

On October 23rd, The Board of Directors elected the following people as Executive Officers for 1994-95:

PRESIDENT **AUDREY THOMAS**

Audrey is well know to many people for her outstanding work as a literacy consultant and researcher. She was a founding member of Literacy B.C. and has been the President for the past year.

VICE PRESIDENT **BOB GADSBY**

Bob is the ABE Coordinator/Instructor at East Kootenay College in Invermere. He has been on the Literacy B.C. Board for 3 years and served as Treasurer and Vice President. Bob is also on the Cost Shared Projects External Review Committee.

SECRETARY **VICKI BRAGAN**

Vicki lives and works in the Queen Charlotte Islands. As a teacher she has worked for the Victim Assistance Program and is currently involve in setting up a literacy program. Vicki has been on the Literacy B.C. Board for 3 years and was the Secretary last year.

TREASURER **STACEY HUGET**

Stacey has had many different jobs in the public and private sectors. Currently, Stacey is a freelance writer. Stacey provides marketing, training and strategic business planning services for a variety of B.C. based business. Passionate about literacy issues, Stacey is eager to devote her energy, creativity and strategic business experience to help Literacy B.C. realize its short and long term goals.

LEARNER REPRESENTATIVES **CAROL BOSSIO**

Carol is an ABE student at Malaspina University College and a single mother with two teenagers. Carol began her learning with The Write Place (Parksville's literacy services centre). Carol is very committed to literacy issues and also volunteers at The Write Place, is on their Board of Directors and the B.C. Libraries and Literacy Advisory Board.

BRENDA LEE GILES

Brenda left school in Grade 8 and worked at many different jobs. She returned to school in 1992 at Vancouver Community College (VCC). She is now in the College Career Access program and will finish her Grade 12 next year. Brenda's future goal is to take the Medical Office Assistant's Course. Brenda is very involved with student activities at VCC - and is a devoted single parent. Recently, Brenda was awarded a scholarship for leadership from VCC.



LITERACY B.C. SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT



On June 23rd, 23 teams gathered at the Vancouver Playhouse for a fun-filled and challenging evening. We raised over \$9,000! A Very Special Thank You to our Supporters!

EVENT SPONSORS
PLACER DOME CANADA LIMITED
ROGERS CANTEL

EVENT CONTRIBUTORS

Mediaco	Ullrich Schade and Associates	LithoTech Canada
Seaboard Life Insurance Company	IABC/BC	Tom Burley Photography

PRIZE CONTRIBUTORS

Ballet B.C.	The Lazy Gourmet	Vancouver Civic Theatres
Duthie Books	Strands Hair & Skin Treatment Centre	White Spot Limited
Intrawest Corporation	Vancouver Symphony Orchestra	



The FOURTH ANNUAL PGI, founded by Peter Gzowski, was held on August 26th. Hosted by Gordon Campbell and Vicki Gabereau, 150 golfers, celebrities and friends of literacy enjoyed a warm and wonderful game of golf — and raised over \$24,000! Thank you to the following:

LOCAL TOURNAMENT SPONSORS/HOLE SPONSORS

Altamira	Manulife Bank Russell Lane & Associates/Leong & Assoc.
Buschlen Mowatt Fine Arts	MCL Motor Cars (1992) Inc.
Dominion Directory Company	MSA/B.C. Life
London Optical	Nitta & Associates
Overwaitea/Save-On-Food Group	<i>The Province</i>

PRIZE CONTRIBUTORS

ABC CANADA	Great Canadian Casino	Royal B.C. Museum
Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang	Great Pacific News	Seymour Golf & Country
Avant Gardener	Harper Collins Canada	Siddall & Associates
Beachside Cafe	MacMillan Canada	Sportsbook Plus
Beautiful B.C. Magazine	Maxfli/Bob Hall Sales	Stanton & MacDougall
Big Sky Golf & Country Club	McClelland & Stewart	The Elephant & Castle Group
Cantel	Minter Gardens	Van Dusen Botanical Garden
Chateau Whistler Invitational	Pasparos Restaurant	West End Guest House
Descente Canada	Purdy's Chocolates	Whitecap Books
Deslippe Insurance Services Inc.	Quill & Quire	YMCA
Douglas & McIntyre	Random House of Canada	



NEW PROVINCIAL LITERACY COORDINATOR ANNOUNCED

On November 21, Audrey Thomas began her new position as Provincial Literacy Coordinator for the Ministry of Skills Training and Labour.

Audrey brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this position. She is a nationally known and respected literacy consultant, researcher and author. Audrey has played an important role in the field of literacy in B.C. and across Canada as an advisor to government, organizations and groups on literacy policy and effective literacy programming. As a consultant, Audrey has written many important and innovative documents and articles for the field of literacy both nationally and internationally.

This announcement is good news and sad news for Literacy B.C. We are pleased to have Audrey in this new position but she will be missed, as President of Literacy B.C. To quote Audrey "This will be a big change for me and it means, of course, that I cannot continue as President of Literacy B.C. I shall miss you all and the activity; but in my new position I hope I can continue to serve the field in a more effective way and work with Literacy B.C. to help meet our goals for a more literate B.C. I expect that I shall still see and be in contact with many of you in my work."

Congratulations Audrey!

SPECIAL NOTE: As Audrey Thomas has resigned to fill the position of Provincial Literacy Coordinator with the Ministry, our Vice President, Bob Gadsby, has agreed to step in as President. Alan Dolman, has been elected to fill the Vice President's position on the Executive Committee.

Alan has been a Director of Project Literacy in Kelowna since November 1993 and is a volunteer tutor. His background includes 23 years working in the Investment Industry in Toronto before retiring and moving with his family to the Okanagan. Over the years, he has chaired the Parent Teacher Committee at his children's school, was a Director of Wood Gundy, as well as being Vice President of CIBC.

WHO WE ARE

Literacy B.C. Founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by Human Resources and Labour Canada, National Literacy Secretariat, memberships and donations. Literacy B.C. welcomes your news and comments. Send to:

LITERACY B.C.
1122 - 510 W. HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C.
PHONE: (604) 687-5077
FAX: (604) 687-5076
DONATIONS TO LITERACY B.C.
ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE



NEWS FROM ACROSS B.C.

COMOX VALLEY COMMUNITY ADULT LITERACY AND LEARNING SOCIETY (CALLS)

Contact: Linda Cooney
Phone: 338-9906 Fax: 338-4452

Since starting our tutoring program in May 1993, we have helped over 85 people to upgrade their literacy skills. Our program has been expanded and is now funded to March 31, 1995 by the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour. They have been very supportive and we are confident they will continue to fund our program.

Our new tutor coordinator is Norah McLean. She was a tutor and board member at the Write Place in Parksville. Norah was also an ABE student at Malaspina and will be graduating this Spring. She will be holding her first tutor training for 20 persons in November, using the multisensory phonics approach.

We have been funded to provide upgrading for 24 persons on Unemployment Insurance and Social Assistance. Our class is 16 weeks, full time and includes academics, computers, communication, people and employment skills. Students participate in work experience and many are finding jobs at the end of their class. The class is sponsored by the local Canada Employment Centre.

Over the past year we have had a number of events, including a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by local politicians, a Reading Tent, a tutoring anniversary party, a party for International Literacy Day and a party celebrating one year in our present Centre.

We are working on a bursary/endowment fund for a student at North Island College. This will take the form of an annual bursary or the formation of an endowment fund.

FORT ST. JOHN LITERACY SOCIETY

Contact: David Griffiths
Phone: 785-6987 Fax: 785-1294

This fall the Fort St John Literacy Society is continuing many of its projects and expanding others. We will still be matching tutors and learners and providing tutor training and we will continue our public awareness campaign.

Our ongoing workplace education project, funded through the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, the Literacy Secretariat, Northern Lights College, Canadian Forest Products and their unions, the Chemical, Electrical and Paperworks and the International Woodworkers, is expanding rapidly. We are into our second year of operation and have approximately 25 registered students. Funding for his project is also helping us to develop a math curriculum for the workplace.

We have also received funds from the Centre for Curriculum Development to develop an English curriculum as well as teacher's guides for both of these workplace curriculum.

We have completed a study for Human Resources Canada, in which we did a survey of the literacy needs at 15 large companies in the area. We now have a base upon which to expand our workplace education program. Five companies have expressed interest in joining with us in some form of workplace education project.

As always fundraising takes up a great deal of our time. This past September we held a golf tournament with approximately 35 participants. They had so much fun that we have already begun organizing a second tournament for June of 1995.



NEWS FROM ACROSS B.C.

FRASER VALLEY EAST LITERACY ASSOCIATION

Contact: Jim Hall
Phone: 792-2959 Fax: 792-6575

Families in Motion (FIM) is into its second year. A lot of hard work was put into ensuring funding for 1994/95. FIM is a literacy program which supports parents as their children's first and most important teachers, by bringing families together to learn and to participate in school and community activities.

The television series, "Focus on Literacy" a six episode learners project, has been re-edited and is being shown on local Channel 10 for the third time.

The "Cultus Lake Literacy and Career Awareness" project is into its first phase. A coordinator and assistant have been hired. This project focuses on literacy and employment issues relating to youth and adults. The project partners are Fraser Valley East Literacy Association, Canada Employment (job creation) and School District #33.

LITERACY KITIMAT

Contact: Janette Camazzola
Phone: 632-3139 Fax: 632-3368

Since September 1993 we have supplied reading assessment followed by one-to-one instruction as follow:

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Adults	17	16	12
Visitors	2	2	-
High School			
Students	1	1	1

Tutors averaged 60-70 contact hours per month.

In October, 7 new tutors were trained using the provincial and our own locally produced

manuals. The instruction tapes, made in our initial tutor training, are still our most useful tools. As there was a high demand for ESL instruction further training was required and extra resources purchased.

New students were assessed, monitored and handed over to tutors when there was a comfort level for the match. We use the well equipped room at Kitimat Community Services Society and also Nechako School Library, twice a week, where we have full use of all the extensive resources. We have a superb corps of trained tutors who enjoy the challenge and find a great reward in seeing their students develop better self esteem with their improved skills.

We have started a pilot project with Grade 6 and 7 teachers which introduces consolidation of primary rules for reading and spelling in the classroom.

LITERACY NANAIMO

Contact: Carolyn McWhinnie
Phone: 754-8988 Fax: 754-8114

This past year we opened a used book store in a shopping mall. It has paid its own way from day one and is proving to be very successful generating additional income for Literacy Nanaimo. The book store is also becoming a highly visible access point for literacy programs. Individuals are making first, tentative contact through volunteers at the book store.

Other activities this past year included:

- A number of 15 minute interview shows on local cable TV
- Workshops for volunteer tutors
- Plain Language workshop for northern Vancouver Island MSSH family assistance workers



NEWS FROM ACROSS B.C.

- Presentations to a number of employee groups during the United Way Campaign
- Distribution of book marks to every book store in Nanaimo.
- Volunteer appreciation week: sent package of flower seeds to volunteer tutors, "You are the sunshine that helps us grow"
- Board Strategic Planning Session
- Two book sales, one at the Superior Propane premises in conjunction with the barbecue for "Literacy".

This year we are establishing a Learners Advisory Committee to our board.

We have taken over coordination of two highly successful volunteer programs in community elementary schools, B.E.A.R.S. and B.E.A.M.S.

For International Literacy Day we focussed on Family Literacy with a variety of articles in all the local papers, an interview on the local radio station and a show on the local cable TV channel. A local book store presented children's books to babies born on September 8.

We recently held a networking function with all member agencies of the United Way (33 agencies) at our book store. Our MLA came as well.

We coordinate the Malaspina University College Volunteer Tutor Program, provide office space for the tutor coordinator and tutoring space with resource material. We also pay part of the salary of the tutor coordinator. There were approximately 175 new learners interviewed and an average of 60 matches at any one time.

Hopefully this year we can find time to get on with our "Reader Friendly Program". This program provides sensitivity workshops for front line workers of banks and Government offices.

NECHAKO LITERACY SOCIETY

Contact: Robin Work

Phone: 567-9291 Fax: 567-9584

The Omineca Express and the Caledonia Courier now feature a weekly adult literacy page. Each week articles written in both college and school district programs are published. These articles are written in simple language and are intended to be accessible for people with reading difficulties. The page is printed in larger font than the rest of the newspaper and focuses attention on people who are currently engaged in literacy reading.

In the past we have set up booths at the Trade Fair and the Healthy Communities Day to publicize current services available and to encourage any interested people to join the group. We also co-sponsored a learner event, a Career Fair, implemented and planned by the Adult Learning Centre students.

As a fundraising activity we joined the high school in the promotion of the Viqueen Throw-a-thon and consequently made a small pocket of money to cover some of our operating costs. Our event was called "Score One For Literacy".

We successfully applied to become a registered society on March 8, 1994. We applied and received a Literacy Cost Shared Grant for a Literacy Research and Program Development Project. The objectives for the project are:

- To clarify the literacy needs
- To reduce the barriers and provide more accessibility to literacy programs
- To create links between service agencies
- To develop a research data base
- To use the research data to modify current literacy programs

Angus and Fiona Glass have been hired to do this project.



NEWS FROM ACROSS B.C.

We would like to especially thank Joyce Upex for her tireless and positive work in developing literacy programs and awareness in our region. Joyce Upex will be taking a two year education leave to do a Doctorate in Tasmania.

NORTH DELTA LIBRARY LITERACY

Contact: Barbara Hynek
Phone: 594-8155

The George Mackie Library and Delview Adult Learning Centre in North Delta will be jointly administering a program called PARENTS AND PRESCHOOLERS.

The program is funded through the Provincial Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour and the Federal Secretary of State. The rationale for this program is to better equip under-educated parents to deal with their children's educational development as well as their own. This enrichment will be provided through the library's vast array of books and materials.

Program Outline - Six Monday mornings, October 31 to December 5, will be scheduled for parents and their pre-school children to meet at the Library. Forty-five minutes will be spent in literature activities each morning. The last half hour parents and children will come together to discuss the morning's events and plan for the next session.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL LITERACY ACTION GROUP

Contact: Melissa Munn
Phone: 635-6511 Fax: 635-3511

This group is made up of literacy practitioners, college representatives, the Literacy B.C. Regional Representatives, board members of

local literacy groups and others.

We have hired a Regional Literacy Coordinator and have met twice to discuss a Regional Development Plan. An effort was made to include other groups (the Women's Centres, Friendship Centres) in noon hour reading events for World Literacy Day. We also participated in the Scrabble for Literacy event sponsored by ABC CANADA.

Our plans for this year include:

- Completion of the Literacy Development Plan
- Training sessions for new tutor trainers
- Incorporating 2 new literacy groups in the Northwest region.

PROJECT LITERACY GREATER VANCOUVER (PLGV)

Contact: Thomas Quigley
Phone: 665-3972 Fax: 665-2265

PLGV was the recipient of a donation from the Superior Propane Inc. 1994 Fill for Literacy Campaign. Although the group has not met recently, there have been frequent mailings to alert members of upcoming literacy activities in the community.

PLGV is also represented on Vancouver's Word on the Street 1995 Steering Committee, and is currently investigating putting literacy information on the Vancouver Regional Freenet.

PROJECT LITERACY HOUSTON

Contact: Dee McRae
Phone: 845-2727 Fax: 845-3521

Our activities this past year have included:

- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) funded by CEIC
- "Health for All", a cost shared project which



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provided literacy awareness and Plain Language workshops for Health and Social Services professionals and caregivers

- "Community Education" workshops on using community services, job search skills and completing government forms.

This year we will continue the LINC program for 35 more weeks with 16 students. We have a new cost shared proposal for a Family Literacy program. There will be a Community Skills Centre in Houston, funded by SKILLS NOW and we will be involved in the planning for this centre.

Lynn Florey has resigned to relocate, with her husband, to Prince George.

PROJECT LITERACY KELOWNA

Contact: Linda Sherwood
Phone: 762-2163 Fax: 862-2922

During 1993/1994 Project Literacy Kelowna continued to provide basic literacy tutoring for adults in our community through the help of volunteer tutors. We offer an intensive training course to prepare our volunteers for tutoring. Tutors work one-on-one with learners to provide confidential and personal literacy instruction based on the language experience model. A total of 53 learners registered during the past year. The majority of these people enrolled to increase their opportunities to find, retain, or advance their employment.

This year we are expanding the scope of our literacy program. We have noticed an alarming need for basic literacy tutoring amongst the younger people in our community. This September we began a youth outreach program to encourage young people to develop a love for reading and to use their new skills in their everyday activities. This new aspect of our

program has been enthusiastically received by everyone involved.

On October 22, Project Literacy Kelowna Society and the Central Okanagan United Way joined forces to present a *Reading Room for Kids* at a local mall. This display gave small children the opportunity to sit down and listen to stories. Local book stores donated books and gift certificates to be won in a special children's raffle. This event was a big hit with mall-frazzled parents and especially with the children.

PROJECT LITERACY PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM

Contact: Liz Campbell
Phone: 248-4041 Fax: 248-4042

The Write Place, operated by Project Literacy Parksville/Qualicum, is having another busy fall.

- We have 85 tutors registered, 60 of whom are working with literacy students, the rest will be matched soon
- We have two English as a Second Language conversation groups
- We still offer free services to walk-in clients, such as resume preparation and help with applications, letters, referrals, information and problem solving
- Our latest venture is a computer rental program, which will be underway shortly.

PROJECT LITERACY SMITHERS

Contact: Susan Jones/Sandra Fehr
Phone: 847-9694 Fax: 847-4568

In October '93 we ran a tutor training program for 10 tutors. Currently we have about 30 trained tutors with 12 matched with learners.

Recently we held a book sale to raise money for

NEWS FROM ACROSS B.C.

resources and have applied for funding to hire a coordinator and have a central office/learning centre.

We are trying to put regular articles in the newspaper about who we are and what we do.

Our plans for the next year are to increase public awareness of our project in the community and hopefully be funded and set up a learning centre.

PROJECT LITERACY TERRACE

Contact: Patricia Woods

Phone: 635-9119 Fax: 635-9339

This past year's activities included:

- Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program (approximately 20 people tutored)
- LINC classes for Levels 1 to 4 involving 13 learners
- Publication of a book "Northwest Journey: Sketches of Life and Learning" with NWCC
- Weekly production and distribution of a newsletter called "The Northwest Reader"

This year's plans include:

- Training for low literate adults to become reporters for "The Northwest Reader"
- Expansion of the Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program
- Expansion of our library

As of September 12, 1994, our new Director is Patricia Woods.

PROJECT LITERACY VICTORIA (PLV)

Contact: Susan Kurushima

Phone: 381-3755 Fax: 381-4911

Our Annual General Meeting, November 2 marked the end of an eventful year. 110 adult

learners participated in our volunteer tutor program, the Learners' Network, and we welcomed 34 new tutors. Tutors and learners organized workshops on income taxes and RRSPs. They are now working on a used book sale to be held in December. Our Learners' Advisory Committee sponsored a series of workshops called "Laughter, Learning and Listening". In a cost shared project called "Speaking Out", a small group of learners was trained in public speaking and has been practicing their skills in presentations to community groups. This group has made gains in self confidence, interpersonal relationships and listening skills.

The 6th Annual Golf Tournament for Literacy in July was hosted by Peter Mansbridge and also included Valdy and Cynthia Dale. This year we also held a Summer Art Auction and Open House where we unveiled a new PLV poster. This fall PLV participated in the United Way campaign for the first time as a non-funded affiliate.

Our plans for the current year include a joint tutor training workshop with the John Howard Society and an expansion of the volunteer tutor program to several community centres.

PROJECT LITERACY WEST KOOTENAY

Contact: Susan Port

Phone: 365-7765 Fax: 365-8566

Thanks to a second year of funding from Selkirk College, we are able to provide tutor training and a few hours a week of tutor/learner coordination in four communities. Over 30 pairs are meeting at present. A Regional Learner Event in April was a great opportunity to bring learners from all four areas together to share experiences and concerns.



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Our spring Book and Bake sale was held in three of the communities on the same day, to benefit from regional advertising. The proceeds will buy more books for the literacy collections in our public libraries.

PROJECT LITERACY WEST KOOTENAY, NAKUSP

Contact: Jennifer Cliff-Marks
Phone: 265-4077 Fax: 265-3774

Our program in Nakusp presently serves 6 learners. Before the end of '94 we will have at least doubled this number with ESL learners. We had a learner event in Castlegar last spring which was quite positive for all involved. In November we had a tutor-get-together to arrange for upcoming tutor training, and share news. A display was placed in the local book store window in November and a Christmas tea is planned with tutors and learners.

Our new address is:
Box 923
Nakusp, B.C.
V0G 1R0

VICTORIA READ SOCIETY

Contact: Melanie Austin
Phone: 388-7255 Fax: 386-8330

Victoria READ Society celebrated its eighteenth year this October with a birthday cake and party. In 1993/94 over 600 children and adults attended our programs and many took part in two or three of the following activities:

Learners' Publishing - READ completed its 1993/4 cost shared project by producing three wonderful books. Over 300 copies of each book have been sent to literacy programs and the orders keep coming in. The publishing

group, Wordstream, is now hard at work finding sponsors to fund the next three books.

ABEABC Conference '94 - READ chaired the planning and hosting of the Adult Basic Education's Annual Conference and AGM this last April in Victoria. It was a very busy time, but also very successful, with over 250 delegates in attendance.

Writes of Spring '94 - In May of '94, Victoria READ hosted its third annual Poetry Bash **Writes of Spring**. Bill Richardson, popular CBC personality, was the MC, and a group of wonderful Canadian poets, including our own learner Joseph Coburn, entertained the audience.

Bursary Program - READ was able to give \$53,000 in bursary subsidy last year to 50 children, thanks to special events like **Writes of Spring**, and with much thanks to our dedicated sponsors and donors who support this valuable program.

READ's plans for the coming year include expanding the Bursary program; to encourage more adults to attend our full time and part time literacy classes through the help of sponsoring agencies; and to continue the LINC program. Fundraising is always on our minds, and this year we want to find sponsors to support the valuable Wordstream project. Writes of Spring 1995 will be on March 17th, and we are delighted that Vicky Gabereau has agreed to be the MC.

COLLEGE BASED PROGRAMS

EAST KOOTENAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (EKCC), CRANBROOK

Contact: Lorrie Lane
Phone: 489-2751 Fax: 489-1790

Kimberley School District and EKCC, Cranbrook worked with adult learners in the

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EKCC Fundamental ABE Program. We produced a handbook, "Let's Go Shopping", to assist adults with low reading and numeracy skills with various aspects of grocery shopping. The students' input was very helpful.

Our literacy program was invited by Superior Propane to participate in the "Fill for Literacy" campaign. We canvassed local businesses for donations for a hotdog barbecue. Superior Propane donated \$1.00 for each cylinder refill and also supplied a barbecue to be raffled. Volunteers from EKCC (staff and Fundamental ABE students) and community members dressed as clowns to distribute balloons to children, cooked and served hotdogs and sold raffle tickets. A total of \$1,399 was raised for literacy programs in the East Kootenays.

As a result of a decision made at our Learner Event last spring, adult learners in the Fundamental ABE Program, Cranbrook, have been preparing a newsletter to be distributed to all EKCC literacy programs. We have invited students, volunteer tutors and instructors from all EKCC sites to participate. The first newsletter should be ready by November.

Our goal for this year is to establish a Buddy System to make entry into our program an easier, less threatening experience for new learners. This system will provide an opportunity for new/prospective learners to discuss the program (prior to enrolling) with students who are enrolled. Our students are eager to participate and arrangements will be made to facilitate contacts. Planning will involve community agencies that refer students to our program.

COLLEGE OF NEW CALEDONIA PRINCE GEORGE CAMPUS VOLUNTEER ADULT LITERACY TUTORING (VALT)

Contact: Paula Davies
Phone: 561-5835 Fax: 561-5816

This past year our activities included:

- A cost shared project "Working with Brain Injured Students"
- A "Prison Literacy" cost shared project
- Completed a program assessment of VALT
- Rewrote the VALT student assessment package
- VALT served a maximum of 30 student/tutor pairs

Tutoring is offered in the jail, at CNC and in the home. Tutor support is also available to literacy classroom programs and at halfway houses.

This year's plans will involve:

- Field testing a new student assessment package
- Contracting employer groups about VALT
- Establishing better contact with the native community
- Acting on the recommendations that have come out of the program evaluation of VALT.

COLLEGE OF NEW CALEDONIA MACKENZIE CAMPUS, VALT

Contact: Barb Lyotier
Phone: 997-4333 Fax: 997-3779

A volunteer tutoring program is in place with a part time coordinator. This is the 4th year of operations. There was a VALT coordinator's meeting October 21, 1994, which provided a great opportunity to establish a network and discuss areas of common interest. We'll be meeting again in 3 months.

This year we are starting a "3R" group - Read, wRite and Relax, a casual approach to increasing

NEWS FROM ACROSS B.C.

literacy skills with a volunteer tutor team approach in a small group setting. We are exploring other possibilities for awareness and expanding our program.

MALASPINA COLLEGE COWICHAN CAMPUS

Contact: Arleigh Trail
Phone: 748-2591 Fax: 746-3529

Our volunteer tutor program is a broad community college based program that does not focus entirely on literacy. Tutor training is comprehensive and has a focus on learning/study skills. Tutors support students in all programs at our campus and individuals in the community. In 1993-94, over 90 learners were supported by 35 tutors.

We held monthly tutor meetings and in services training which included the F.A.T. CITY VIDEO and a workshop by Anne Erikson on Learning Styles.

MALASPINA COLLEGE POWELL RIVER CAMPUS, VALT

Contact: Eileen McKinnon
Phone: 485-2878 Fax: 485-2868

Our program in Powell River:

- Provides a 25 hour training program for adult volunteer tutors every Fall
- Matches tutors with adult students who need help in literacy
- Provides on-going support and materials for tutors who work with literacy students.

Last year we trained 12 new tutors and re-enlisted seven more. Over the year we had 23 students enrol in our program. Some of our tutor-student partnerships have stayed with us for more than 2 years.

This year the College has initiated a new cost shared program called "Learning Net" in collaboration with a local employment support agency, Career Link. We hope to use Career Link as an outreach resource for people in need of help with literacy. VALT will train Career Link counsellors in literacy awareness, provide some tutoring skills and material support, and act as a liaison for their clients with the College.

Malaspina University College in Powell River offers a 10 month full time course called "Introduction to Developmental Education". This full time program, which is unique to the Powell River Campus, is run under the auspices of the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour. It offers literacy, life skills and pre-employment training to sponsored students. Some of our VALT tutors provide additional support to students in this program.

OKANAGAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, VERNON

Contact: Lloyd Mitchell
Phone: 545-7291 Fax: 545-3277

The past year activities included:

- 3 inservice sessions with practicing tutors
- Attending an Okanagan Valley Learners' Conference, in Penticton with several of our students. **STATISTICS:** 44 tutors registered, 37 tutors active; 56 learners enrolled - majority under 51 years of age. 57% male 43% female

On International Literacy Day we wrote a press release for local media and had an information booth at a local mall.

Our plans for this year are to do a cost shared project, "Literacy Through Artifacts". It will be cooperative research involving a historic ranch society and literacy students at Okanagan University College, Vernon Campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGIONAL LEARNER EVENTS 1995

You are invited to have a Learner Event. Any group of adult literacy learners may apply.

Learner Events give students a chance to plan events to talk about issues they think are important and experiences that they have in common. The Learner Event can also be used to let other people know about the problems that many adults have with reading and writing and tell them about the programs that can help them.

The basic rules are simple:

1. At least half of the planning committee must be students
 2. The final report must be written by a student or a group of students. It is best to make writing the final report a part of the Event or plan to write it right after the Event.
 3. Reports must be completed by **JUNE 15, 1995**. This means your Event must be held by the end of May
 4. Applications must be mailed by **DECEMBER 16, 1994**.
 5. In **FEBRUARY 1995** you will be called to let you know if you will be funded.
- Applications forms are available from the Literacy B.C. office. For more information call: Joyce Cameron, phone 439-7714

COST SHARED PROJECTS 1995

INFORMATION PACKAGES AND
APPLICATIONS WILL BE MAILED IN
NOVEMBER AND ARE AVAILABLE
FROM LITERACY B.C.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
FEBRUARY 24, 1995

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
PATTY BOSSORT
PHONE: 358-2745 FAX: 358-2746

LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW: A PROVINCIAL LEARNERS TRAINING CONFERENCE

A provincial learners conference will be held from **May 14 - 19, 1995** at **Columbia Camp** on Cultus Lake.

A Planning Committee will be set up with 15 learners, one from each college region plus representatives from the Learners' Caucus of Literacy B.C. This Committee will plan the provincial conference and attend a two day pre-conference Leadership Training session on May 14 and 15, 1995.

60 Learners will be able to attend the Provincial Learners Conference. At least two learners from each college region will be selected to attend. The conference will provide learners with the opportunity to become more involved in literary work and have a stronger voice in the literary field.

For more information contact:
Mary Thompson Boyd
Literacy B.C.,
Phone: 687-5077

COLES BOOK BEAR

Coles Book Stores, Canada's largest book retailer, is raising funds for literacy with the launch of the "Coles Book Bear". A stuffed bear, wearing glasses and a scarf, will be available in all Coles Book stores beginning November 14, 1994. The Book Bear will sell for \$7.99 with net proceeds going to Frontier College, ABC CANADA and Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEACHING LITERACY SKILLS TO ADULTS

An elective in the Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE), is being offered over four weekends in the Lower Mainland in 1995.

Dates: February 17/18; March 10/11,
April 7/8; May 5/6, 1995

Times: 7-10 pm, Friday evenings;
9 am to 4 pm Saturdays

Location: Douglas College,
New Westminster Campus, Room 1811

Fee: \$275, plus course materials

Course Content: Overview of Adult Literacy in Canada; Educational Concept of Literacy and its Political and Social Implications; Principles and Methods of Teaching; Understanding the Characteristics, Needs and Problems of Adults who are Functionally Illiterate; Awareness of the Special Learning Needs of Adults with Learning Disabilities; Review of Various International Adult Literacy Programs; Strategies for Program Planning and Evaluating Resource Materials.

Students may choose to take the course for their own personal or professional interest (i.e. without assignments), or as an elective in the CACE program. Those who are not CACE students and wish to take this course and later apply it to the program, must contact Diane Anderson, Program Coordinator (604-721-7860) before enrolling. Enrollment is limited to 25.

Course Code: CACEX301 (\$50)

Registration Deadline: **January 20, 1995**

To register, contact:

Naisa, Continuing Studies in Education,
University of Victoria
(604) 721-6571

Course is offered subject to minimum enrollment.

MOVEMENT FOR CANADIAN LITERACY REPORT

Advocacy continues to be our main focus, in particular the Social Security Reform being conducted by the federal government. As many of you know, Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources Development, finally released his Discussion Paper on October 5. We have also received funding for research to prepare our written submission to the Standing Committee, which is holding public hearings across the country. MLC Board members appeared before the Standing Committee on November 4 and emphasized issues from the MCL "Let's Get Serious About Literacy" handbook. MCL is also continuing to research the implications of the Canada Literacy Act proposal. The final version of our brief will be included in the December MCL Newsletter.

As an "umbrella" organization, MCL is only as strong as our member coalitions. I strongly encourage you to join the literacy coalition in your province or territory. They need your help to raise awareness and to get more resources to programs in the field. You will also be helping MCL by getting involved at the local level. Our work in Ottawa will only be effective if the MPs hear the same literacy message when they go back to their local ridings. By using this "one-voice" strategy, we will ensure that literacy is part of major policy developments like the Social Security Reform.

Literacy is higher on the national agenda than it has ever been. We have a tremendous opportunity to make real progress on literacy issues, but we can't do it without you. Thanks for your continued support.

ROYAL BOURK, PRESIDENT, MCL